

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Carol A. Murray, Commissioner

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Bill Boynton
Public Information Office
(603) 271-6495

SARAH MILDRED LONG BRIDGE REOPENS TO VEHICLE TRAFFIC
INTERIM REPAIRS COMPLETED TO PISCATAQUA RIVER BRIDGE

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation announces the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge carrying the Route 1 Bypass over the Piscataqua River between Portsmouth, New Hampshire and Kittery, Maine reopened to motor vehicle traffic today (December 15) at noon. The lift bridge had been closed to vehicular traffic for just over six weeks until emergency repairs could be completed.

The Sarah Long Bridge experienced a power outage on October 28. It was later determined that an underwater power cable had been irreparably damaged. Interim repairs began the week of November 20 utilizing spare cables provided by the Maine Department of Transportation.

During the week of December 18, motorists should some lane closures and alternating one-way traffic across the bridge. Navigational closures to marine traffic on the Piscataqua River will also be necessary in order for divers to secure and protect the replacement cables on the bottom of the river channel. To accomplish this additional work, the bridge cannot be opened for marine traffic on the following dates and times:

Monday, December 18, 2006	9:53 am – 11:53 am and 4:53 – 6:53 pm
Tuesday, December 19	10:33 am – 12:33 pm and 5:36 pm – 7:36 pm
Wednesday, December 20	11:16 am – 1:16 pm and 6:17 pm – 8:17 pm
Thursday, December 21	6:07 am – 8:07 am and 11:50 am – 1:50 pm
Friday, December 22	6:52 am – 8:52 am and 12:28 pm – 2:28 pm
Saturday, December 23	7:38 am – 9:38 am and 1:09 pm – 3:09 pm

Cianbro Corporation of Pittsfield, Maine and Yates Electrical of Durham, NH were the two private contractors that worked on the \$400,000 repair project.

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